

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

EDWARDS, Chet (Democrat)  
Representative, 11th District, Texas  
Elected 1990 to 102nd Congress  
Reelected to succeeding Congresses



## BACKGROUND

Born: Corpus Christi, Texas - 24 November 1951

Home: Waco, Texas

Marital Status: Married (Lea Ann) - 2 children

Religion: Methodist

Education: Texas A&M Univ, BA, 1974; Harvard Univ, MBA, 1981

Military: None

Profession: Radio station owner

Political: Texas Senate, 1983-90. Won 1990 general election with 54% of the vote to succeed Rep Marvin Leath (D) who retired. Reelected in 2000 with 55% and in 2002 with 51.6% of the vote.

Rep Edwards is a moderate who represents a pro-military, fairly conservative district. Army's Ft Hood is in his district. Strong supporter of the Impact Aid program. In the 106th Congress, supported the Kosovo bombing campaign, but called for congressional authorization before troops were committed to a ground war. Supports adding the Robert Gray Army Airfield (Killeen) to the joint military / civilian use (MAP) program. Said the F-22 funding fight indicated that Congress was "waking up to the fact that there's no more free lunch." Believed "Quality of life issues are at the heart and soul of the building and strengthening of our military structure." Opposed a supplemental bill that cut funds for a program to designed to eliminate 50 tons of Russian weapons grade plutonium--believed there was no logic to spending billions for a NMD system and then at the same time stopping a process that could prevent the potential development of tens of thousands of nuclear weapons. Drew attention to several aircraft upgrade programs involving the C-130 and C-141 that would be conducted at the Waco facility of Raytheon Corporation, one of his district's top employers.

In the 107th Congress, complained that overseas military construction is "off the political radar screen." Remarkd "out of sight, out of mind is a problem when dealing with military construction...." Offered an unsuccessful amdt to the FY02 Energy-Water approps bill to help Russia safeguard its nuclear materials. Added funds to the FY03 DoD approps bill for Navy EP-3E aircraft sensor upgrades built by Waco's L-3 Communications Integrated Systems. Supported the TRICARE for Life program in that same bill. Disagreed with the Sec/Def's decision to cancel the Army's Crusader artillery system. Criticized the failure to pass an FY03 Labor-HHS-Education approps bill containing funds for the Impact Aid program for public schools having large numbers of military schoolchildren. Supports the Residential Community Initiative (RCI) program, a public-private effort to fund military housing upgrades.

At the beginning of the 108th Congress was assigned to the Budget Committee and became ranking Democrat on the HAC/Military Construction subcommittee. Criticized a proposal in the President's FY04 budget to change the funding formula for impact aid schools. Edwards is considered a GOP key target for defeat in 2004.

Additional: Co-chairman, Army Caucus and the Impact Aid Coalition. Serves as one of four Chief Deputy Minority Whips in the House Democratic leadership ranks. His district has more retired veterans than any other in the nation.

AF Bases: None

## COMMITTEES

APPROPRIATIONS -- Subcs on: Military Construction - Ranking; Energy & Water Development  
BUDGET